

agement of which formed the chief interest of his professional life. He was as great an administrator as he was a surgeon, and the magnificent new buildings of the Hospital, completed in 1916 and since enlarged, in planning and organization are largely his creation and form an enduring monument to his memory.

Dr. Hibbs died in New York, September 16, 1932. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy April 6, 1899. He was a member of the American Medical Association, American College of Surgeons, American Orthopedic Association and consulting orthopedic surgeon to a number of hospitals.

KARL VOGEL.

OBITUARY OF M. ALLEN STARR

Dr. M. Allen Starr, one of America's most distinguished neurologists and teachers, died in Marienbad, Germany, September 4, 1932. His family originally came from Middlebury, Vermont, but he was born in Brooklyn, May 16, 1854. Soon after his birth his family removed to Orange, N. J., where he had his early education in a private school. It is always interesting to know what determines an individual to follow the course which has led to eminence and distinction in his chosen calling and Dr. Starr has left some typewritten reminiscences of his early life which have a bearing on this. He felt as most people now do that certain personalities in youth have an immense influence on the future of their pupils, and he speaks feelingly of the stimulation he gained from the Rev. F. A. Adams who taught him Latin and Greek in the Orange School in an enlightened and creative way, and of his years at Princeton under the inspired teaching of Prof. Packard in Latin, Prof. Cyrus Brackett in Physics and the President of Princeton, James McCosh who made Philosophy and Psychology live in the minds of all so fortunate as to hear him.

Dr. Starr received the degree at Princeton of B. A. in 1876, M. A. in 1879, Ph.D. in 1884 and LL.D. in 1899.

It was in 1875 that the first investigations were being made showing the connection of mental processes with brain function. Fritsch and Hitzig in Berlin and Ferrier in London had just published the results of their physiological studies of the brain cortex, had established the relation of certain parts of the brain to movements of the body, had located the centres for motion of the head, arms and legs, and had demonstrated a relationship between certain parts of the brain and the faculty of speech. All this was presented to the students at that time by President McCosh in a most illuminating way. This new development in studies of the brain made a great impression on Dr. Starr, but when he went abroad after graduation from Princeton, he had a divided allegiance, for he had been promised a chair of history in which he also took great interest, if he would devote himself to that field. So in Europe he took courses in Berlin with Mommsen in Roman, and with Curtius in Greek history. But the lure of the other drive led him also to take lectures on physics by Helmholtz and to study the work of Wundt on mind and brain. These latter proved more attractive than dry history, so that on his return to New York after a year abroad he matriculated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, taking the M.D. degree there in 1880. Here too he found the personality of certain professors arousing enthusiasm over and above all others, such as Alonzo Clark, Gaillard Thomas, Robert Sands and James McLean. Then came two years in Bellevue Hospital after which he again went abroad, this time with only one end in view, to Heidelberg with Erb and Schultze the foremost German neurologists of the day, and to Meynert and Nothnagel in Vienna. Nothnagel's lectures all that winter were on the subject of localization of function in the brain and spinal cord. After that he went to Paris for a course of study with Charcot.

On his return to New York in 1882 he found no labora-

tory where he could continue his microscopic work on the nervous system so established one in his own house to which students began to come for instruction. In 1884 he published an essay on the sensory tract in the nervous system and this was awarded the Alumni Association Prize of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, leading to his appointment as Professor of Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System at the New York Polyclinic and two years later as Professor of Nervous Diseases, until 1889 when he resigned to take the chair of Nervous Diseases in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, vacated by Dr. E. C. Seguin. He held this position until 1917 when he became emeritus. In 1905 Columbia University gave him the degree of Sc.D. During these fruitful years he was made consulting neurologist to the Presbyterian Hospital, St. Vincent's, St. Mary's, St. Johns at Yonkers, the Plainfield Hospital and the Westchester Hospital at Mt. Kisco.

He was President of the American Neurological Association in 1896, of the New York Neurological Society in 1894-97, and Vice-President of the Academy of Medicine 1903-6 and was foreign member of neurological societies in London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna.

Besides various papers printed in *Brain*, the *New York Medical Record*, *Reference Handbook of the Medical Sciences*, *Lea and Co's System of Medicine*, *Princeton Review* and *Popular Science Monthly*, Dr. Starr published a number of books as follows:

- Familiar Forms of Nervous Disease by himself and assistants at the Vanderbilt Clinic 1890
- Lectures on Nervous Diseases 1900
- Lectures on Diseases of the Mind 1902
- Brain Surgery 1893
- Atlas of Nerve Cells 1896
- Organic Nervous Diseases 1903
- Organic and Functional Diseases of the Nervous System 1907 (4th edition 1913)

It is thus seen that he was one of the foremost American pioneers in neurology at almost the beginning of this specialty. There had been a few before him such as Weir Mitchell, W. A. Hammond, Beard and two or three others, most of whom were still living when he gave new impetus to the study of diseases of the nervous system. He contributed much to our knowledge of conditions novel then but familiar now, such as multiple neuritis, poliomyelitis, acromegaly, syringomyelia, multiple sclerosis, Grave's disease, myxoedema and cretinism, the aphasias, apraxia, and tumors of the brain and spinal cord.

The first operation for tumor of the brain in this country was in 1887 by Seguin and Weir. In 1893 only fifty cases in all literature of successful removal of tumor of the brain could be collected by Dr. Starr, while in 1930 Dr. Harvey Cushing was able to report two thousand of his own, and Dr. Starr stated shortly before he died that probably ten thousand cases had been operated to date, compared with the fifty cases in 1893.

Dr. Starr felt for his chosen department of medicine an intense interest, and his enthusiasm in his work communicated itself to his students and to all the associates with him in his clinical and professional work. His lectures were always thronged not only by the college students but by practitioners who came to learn of the new advance in neurology. He had a great gift in the matter of orderly, masterly and inspiring presentation of any subject that came up for discussion or lectures. His ambidexterity in drawing sections of brain or cord or patterns of cerebral lesions on the blackboard as he talked elicited often especial applause. He was one of the most kindly of men, generous and helpful to all of his assistants, students and friends, and everyone gave him an unusual meed of admiration and loyalty.

FREDERICK PETERSON.
